(b) Question does not arise.

(c) 1.66 million tonnes of magnesite has been identified in Village Parsad by the State Government of Rajasthan through survey and prospecting.

(d) Magnesite always remained unreserved group of minerals and anybody can make use of the mineral for establishing industry.

(e) and (f). Benefits likely to be accrued and employment potential depends on the economic viability of the deposit and extent of exploitation.

Delhi Flying Club Closed

3099. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SHIGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi Flying Club Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi has been lying closed since 1982;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken so far to reopen it;

(c) whether the Pilot training for CPL, PPL and non-professional trainees has also been discontinued;

(d) whether the objective of Safdarjung Airport was to provide training to Pilots and to handle movement of VIPs;

(e) if so, whether these objectives have been fulfilled; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The objectives of Safdarjung Airport are mainly to cater to the flight operations of Delhi Flying Club, impart training to pilots and handle occasional VIP movements.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Bauxite based Aluminium Industry in Bihar

3100. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether heavy deposits of Bauxite have been located in Palamu and Chatara districts of Southern Bihar;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to set-up bauxite based aluminium industry there;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Geological Survey of India is likely to conduct a survey to ensure the heavy deposits of bauxite in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The district-wise recoverable reserves of Bauxite in Bihar is given below :-

District	(Unit : 000 Tonnes)
Monghyr	813.00
Palamau	3323.20
Rohtas	1300.00
Gumla	37132.50
Lohardaga	12120.50
Dumka	6415.00
Total	61104.20

(b) and (c). The Alumina Refinery of Indian Aluminium Company Limited is already located at Muri in the State. Any new capacities can be created on establishment of additional reserves in the State to justify setting up of such a plant.

(d) and (e). Government have been conducting surveys of mineral reserves in Bihar on continuing basis. Geological Survey of India has carried out a Targe number of investigations for different minerals in the state which includes Bauxite.

[English]

Expansion of Bauxite Mines and Aluminium Refineries of NALCO

3101. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to expand the bauxite mines and aluminium refinery of NALCO;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the investment made therefor;

(c) whether the Government have already approved the expansion of Alumina/Aluminium project at Damanjodi, Orissa;

(d) if so, the details thereof and

(e) the time by which the expansion programme is expected to be computed?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (e). The proposal of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) to expand the capacity of Bauxite

Mines from 2.4 Million Tonnes Per Year (MTPY) to 4.8 MTPY and Alumina Refinery from 0.8 MTPY to 1.575 MTPY, both situated at Damanjodi at an investment of Rs. 1664.60 crores (June, 1996 price level) has been approved by the Government. The expansion is to be completed in 51 months.

[Translation]

Bailadila Diamond Mines in Madhya Pradesh

3102. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh visited South Africa in connection with the contract of Bailadila Diamond Mines in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the benefits likely to accure and the income likely to be earned by the State through this contract;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to take over this mine and give the State Government its share of money; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d). The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that there is no diamond mine in Bailadila. However, a delegation led by the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh had visited South Africa to study the facilities available in that country for investigation and evaluation of diamond bearing kimberlites and its mining, processing and procedure for sale being practised in that country.

Independent Radio/TV Authority

3103. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an Independent authority for radio and television network soon as appeared in 'Financial Express' dated August 30, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the said authority is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). No decision has been taken by the Government on this issue as yet. Government is in the process of consultation with the various political parties and a meeting was taken by the Information and Broadcasting Minister in this regard on 13th September, 1996. A questionnaire was also sent to them and only a few of them have responded so far. After taking these views into consideration, a Comprehensive Broadcasting Bill will soon be introduced in the Parliament.

[English]

Medium Capacity Long Range Aircraft

3104. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India is Planning to slow down the induction of Medium Capacity Long Range (MCLR) aircraft by sharply reducing the pace of aircraft acquisition to meet the $2 billion deal in a phased manner as reported in the 'Times of India', New Delhi dated August, 1996;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d). The proposal for acquistion of Medium Capacity Long Range (MCLR) aircraft by Air India, is at present under consideration of a Sub-Committee of the Board of Air India Limited.

[Translation]

Difference between Vayudoot and Alliance Air

3105. SHRI SAT MAHAJAN : will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the difference between Vayudoot and recently formed Alliance Air;

(b) whether the Government have ensured that Allianne Air may not run in heavy losses in the near future on the lines of Vayudoot; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Vayudoot was incorporated as a company owned equally by Air India and Indian Airlines. Airline Allied Services Limited (AASL) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Indian Airlines, activated to supplement its services. 'Alliance Air' is the brand name of the airline operated by Airline Allied Services Limited.

(b) and (c). Alliance Air is economically viable as it is deploying B-737 aircraft which are more efficient than the aircraft used by Vayudoot and the routes operated by it have adequate passenger traffic.